



STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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SPECIAL MEETING
AD HOC PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 23, 2010
TOWN HALL-MEETING HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Currier, Ted Graziani, David Grim, Leonard Johnson, Alan Lewandosky, Jeffrey Martin, David Milnes, Cheryl Samborski and Michael Varney

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- January 26, 2010:

Dave Milnes introduced the minutes. The minutes were approved, as submitted.

III. Memorial Day Program Plan:

Mike Currier and Mike Varney met last week to review the planning process. Copies of the document were distributed to the members. Some questions were raised about the procedure. Mike Varney will obtain clarification on the items and report back.

Bolles Motors will be used for the parade cars as in the past.

The contact list presented represents people previously used. There is no problem contacting others.

A question was raised about continued use of the POW/MIA chair in the program. It was agreed that this is acceptable.

Jeffrey Martin needs the following information for the request form to be submitted relative to a military fly-over for the service on the green by Westover Air Force Base (F-14's) as follows:

1. What has been the historic attendance? Answer: 2000.
2. What is the anticipated attendance? Answer: 2000.
3. Time of the fly-over? Answer: 12 Noon.
4. Alternate date? Answer: There is no alternate date.

5. Planned media coverage? Answer: local (Ellington Connection) and regional. (Journal Inquirer). Note: the Ellington Connection is a quarterly publication scheduled to go to press on March 26. We will request that Marie Sauve save space to give the event coverage, if we wish to give her an article to put in.
6. Contact Person for fly-over for the Crystal Lake parade? Answer: Mike Varney volunteered to obtain the proper contact from the Selectmen's office.
7. Have requests for fly-overs been made to other military branches? Answer: Consensus of the attendees is to stay with what we have now.
8. Are military recruiters allowed to take part in the ceremony? Answer: "all recruiters are welcome" will be the response for the form. Note: We must ask the Board of Education if the recruiters can set up in the high school. Mike Varney said that he will ask Superintendent Cullinan concerning the use of the high school.
9. Who will be in the parade? Answer: He will put a list together from Mike's list.
10. How many years has the parade been held? Answer: Since 1920.

Mike Varney said that he had requested a 9:30 AM Blackhawk Helicopter fly-over from the Air National Guard for Crystal Lake. The service will be finished at 10:00 a.m. Len Johnson stated that we have a letter to submit to the Air National Guard for Crystal Lake by the town of Ellington. If Westover turns down the fly-over request, we can change the time for the fly-over on the green.

The American Legion Auxiliary will be responsible for the purchase of a wreath for the monument on the green.

Len Johnson stated that he has received questions and concerns concerning the Memorial Day Celebration and parade.

Note: the high school band through their contact must be aware that we have "music" whenever the flags come in and out.

It has been suggested that a bigger flag and rose (with a larger table and tablecloth) be used for the MIA/POW display. The presenters will be David Grimm and Tim Olmstead.

The prayer blessing must be ecumenical in nature. There is concern that if it is too specific toward Christianity that it might make people from other religious belief(s) uncomfortable. We can provide the American Legion prayer to whoever will conduct the blessing.

Question: Can the high school band play in the cemetery? Answer: No, just "taps".

Question: A boy scout in town is working toward his Eagle rank. His project is to have the POW/MIA memorial restored. He is current planning the dedication. Do we want to include this in the Memorial Day celebration? Answer: Yes, if the project can be completed in time.

Len Johnson stated that the line of march should be included in the planning. The American Legion will prepare the line of march.

A dozen geraniums should be planted around the memorial in the cemetery, and also for Crystal Lake Cemetery

Len Johnson would like a summary list of the various assignments as of tonight. Alan Lewandosky stated that he would compile and provide the list.

Michael Currier stated that someone needs to take over the purchase of the grave site flags. Nick DiCorleto needs the flag count. The same number as last year is sufficient. Mike Varney will contact Nick to order the same number of flags and medallions as last year.

The boy scouts need to be at the center of town at 6 PM on the Thursday before Memorial Day to distribute the flags. Jeff Martin has suggested that the scouts be divided into two (2) teams with one (1) team for Center Cemetery and the other for Crystal Lake Cemetery.

The budget for the geraniums came from the Charter Fund. The American Legion Auxiliary will order a dozen for both the service at Center Cemetery and the other for Crystal Lake Cemetery. The Auxiliary will plant them at center cemetery, while Len will plant at Crystal Lake.

The ceremony at Crystal Lake will have the Crystal Lake Association placing the wreath at the memorial followed by a coffee service.

The large flags are in the selectman's office. They make sure that they are in good shape.

Two (2) town employees will be available to transport and set up the PA system at each ceremonial site. Mike Varney stated, that for convenience, we could use Fire Department's PA system.

Mike Varney will contact Fire Department members as to who has been contacted about the parade. He will also talk to Carol relative to the letter from the town about the Crystal Lake fly-over.

David Milnes will bring the program to the town to make additional copies of the one he already has.

It was suggested that we put a request in the Ellington Connection for families with members in the military to contact us.

Len Johnson asked for suggestions for a guest speaker. Ted Graziani suggested Thad Martin's wife, who has served in the military. He will contact her for a ten (10) minute speech.

Len Johnson will talk to Jim Stoughton to see if he will tutor the school students on their recitations. Mike Varney will discuss potential speakers with the high school and middle school principles.

Mike Currier expressed concern relative to receiving the President's Proclamation in time for Memorial Day. Mike Varney will get a copy of last year's proclamation as a fall back. Since Mike Currier will be out of town for some time, he will update the list of the items he presented and give it to Al Lewandowsky.

Dave Milnes volunteered to be responsible for the coordination of the Crystal Lake program.

Jeff Martin will contact the high school band director concerning the Memorial Day performances and parade.

Jeff Martin will contact the girl scouts concerning Memorial Day program participation.

The color guard usually consists of members of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Al Lewandowsky will contact the VFW.

Jeff Martin said that he might be able to get the loan of a WWII Jeep, if anyone wants to drive it.

IV. Flag Burning Ceremony Monday, June 14, 2010:

The annual flag burning program was discussed. Dave Milnes said that the information must be publicized along with a flag drop off site. Len Johnson will be responsible for getting the flag day information published.

Mike Varney asked if we could get an old metal drop off mail box from the post office. Cheryl Samborski volunteered to contact the post office concerning the availability of an old mail box and a recommended site that does not conflict with "normal" mail drop off.

Wreaths Across America Program:

This has been added for possible consideration in the future.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (SAMBORSKI), SECONDED (MILNES) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:23 P.M.

Submitted by Cheryl Samborski
Cheryl Samborski